

Hi Fans,

By now you have no doubt heard the new CARPENTER single PLEASE, MR. POSTMAN and agree it is another hit. Their new Christmas single should be in the stores very soon. They've done SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN as only Richard can arrange it. It's quite different from the original version and I'm sure you'll enjoy the slower beat as a change from the faster, more familiar arrangement. Their beautiful song MERRY CHRISTMAS DARLING is on the flip side.

Both Richard and Dad Carpenter send their thanks and gratitude for the lovely cards and gifts they received from you for their birthday. Karen and Richard send regrets for the postponement of several of their concerts scheduled for November. During their mid-November TV taping, Karen got laryngitis and was unable to talk or sing. Her doctor ordered her to rest and forbid her to sing until the laryngitis was gone. Even then, when they left Friday, the 22nd to resume their schedule, she wasn't sure she would be able to sing that night or not. Postponed concerts were rescheduled for the end of their November/December tour.

During their stay in Vegas, they were given one of the clubs 74 Alvarados to drive. They left for Vegas 2 days early to take in a couple of the nightclub shows. They enjoyed Liberace, one of their favorite entertainers; and also took in Hallelujah Hollywood, a colorful and entertaining spectacle at the new MGM Hotel. On stage they worked with the Riviera Club orchestra conducted by Mr. Palumbi. Concerts went so well they recorded them professionally for a "live" album. The program included The Warsaw Concerto, performed by Richard on the concert grand, and the audience loved it. Their opening act was Gabriel Kaplan, a fantastic comedian. Milwaukee greeted them with beautiful weather. While there they were privileged to watch the Ali-Foreman fight on closed circuit TV. During the third round the picture went out and the audience nearly went mad. When they realized the sound was still with them, they settled down to listen. The picture was restored in the seventh round and as you know, the 8th round ended the match. They were impressed by the beauty of the Performing Arts Center where they performed and also by the lovely dinner brought in for them between shows. The Astor Hotel in Chicago was "old home" to them, as they'd stayed there before on previous visits; but this time they shared it with other celebrities. Both Latimore Horowitz and Elton John used the Astor as headquarters while doing shows in or near Chicago. Groupie commotion there was endless. Mr. Horowitz, one of the world's greatest pianists, had come out of retirement to do several special concerts. Elton John invited K & R to one of his concerts, but unfortunately, their own concerts coincided with his and they couldn't go. Mr. Palumbi from Vegas, conducted the 35 piece orchestra they used in Chicago and all shows went exceptionally well. Their hotel rooms were equipped with pay TV and K & R watched first run movies - a rare privilege, not allowed for in their busy tour and recording schedule. Lansing Michigan weather was a drastic change from the warm temp they enjoyed in Chicago. It was 30-40 degrees cooler and raining. Technical difficulties on stage added to the gloom. The audience saved the day. They were the best audience they had since the tour began and K & R loved them. At the hotel, a young girl, claiming to be the housekeeper frequently barged in unannounced until Richard put a stop to it. In spite of more crummy weather in Saginaw, the concert was sold out and went very well. In both Saginaw and Muskegon, their concerts were held in ice rinks, which is not one of their favorite places to perform. Low temps must be maintained to keep the ice from melting; and though the floor is covered, the cold comes thru and freezes their feet. A refreshing and first time interlude for the group was offered by Curt Mercer, their sound engineer, who donned ice skates and did some fancy skating for them while the overture was played. In New Castle Indiana, their concert was performed in the Chrysler High School Field House, which is the largest and finest one for a high school. 10,500 people can be squeezed in for a basketball game. Concert capacity is considerably less. The field house design is great for sports, but Carpenters' concert - the first concert to be held there - brought to light a number of difficulties for stagehands. Richard compared the field house design to that of a tea cup, with bleachers on inside walls and the group at the bottom of the cup. There is no way to back a truck up to the stage and unload equipment. Instead, it must be brought from the top, down an aisle to the bottom. 40 stage hands worked very hard to get the huge truckload of Carpenter equipment down the aisle to the stage. The biggest problem, of course, was the huge soundboard and the nine foot concert grand. And it was even a bigger problem getting them back UP. Another new experience for them was getting lost. In new cars rented from Hertz, the group took off, "to each, his own" rather than caravan style. All drivers lost their way, and comparing notes later they decided that Richard, Karen, Rebecca, Sherwin and Randy were the "lostest". They discovered traffic getting thinner and thinner until it finally disappeared altogether. They found themselves on a narrow country road passing farm homes, barns, pigs, cows and horses. They finally stopped at one of the farm homes and a very nice lady gave them directions to get back

to Newcastle. In Fort Wayne they played in a very flashy red, yellow and blue building which housed another ice rink. Electrical problems in the dressing rooms there gave them a few headaches. When they used their iron and hair dryer at the same time, they blew the lights. So clothes pressing had to wait until hair drying was done. In Champaign they played to 11,000 people for a homecoming. They were pleased with the assembly hall on the U. of Ill. campus. In spite of restrictions, a fellow wearing a security badge, but sans security uniform got in to R's dressing room and asked for a pen. R offered his, the man left and returned momentarily with a polaroid pic of himself with autograph and message on it for K. When R saw that every word in the message was badly misspelled, he became suspicious and called Bear who called a theater security guard who discovered the badge was a fake, and proceeded to usher the man out of the building. After concert dinner at the Boorshead was excellent and well worth the long drive to get there. Lodging was the Paradise, designed like a motel from out of the past. Richard enjoyed the food there, as well as the nostalgia of the building design which included port hole windows in the doors. In Davenport, the dismal weather depressed them so for kicks they had a water fight. It started innocently enough when Pete tossed a little ice cube at Alan Tinkley. Doug had the upper hand for a while. He was in his room and became adept at opening his door just long enough and far enough to douse the boys with water without retaliation. Danny finally figured out how to open the door between their adjoining rooms; so with a trash can filled with water, he got in to Doug's room and finally gave him a dousing. When the fun ended, everyone pitched in and cleaned up the mess. A good time had been enjoyed by all, nothing was harmed and the place was a bit more sparkling when they finished cleaning. The flight home was a bit grueling. It was lengthy with several stops and though they flew first class their meal consisted of a corned beef sandwich and a brownie each. Not too substantial a meal for a hungry group. There was another "Mr. Guder" aboard who gave R a bad time. When R turned in his seat to talk to Doug who sat behind him, his view of him was blocked by the "NO Smoking" sign on the back of his seat, so he removed it and laid it on the floor out of the way. This new "Mr. Guder" told him to put it back or he would tell the captain. When R refused to replace it, "Mr. G." tattled to the captain who informed him that he really didn't care. The sign remained on the floor much to the dismay of new "MR. G." The lights of Los Angeles were a very welcome sight to them that night.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL: As a Christmas special we are offering the beautiful Carpenter buckles to Club Members for only \$5.00. This is a \$2.00 saving. They can be worn on the Carpenter needle-point belts, so order now.

IMPORTANT: A new post office rule says that all letters without return addresses will be sent to the dead letter office. so DON'T FORGET TO WRITE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS ON EACH LETTER YOU MAIL. Looks like we have room for a few Q & A's so here are a few I picked at random.

Q. Do K & R have any relatives in show business?

A. No.

Q. What are K & R's feelings toward Bette Midler?

A. They think she's great.

Q. How many first cousins do they have?

A. Twelve

Q. Has Richard ever tried to teach Karen how to play piano?

A. No

Q. Does the red car on the cover of Now and Then belong to Richard?

A. Yes. It is his Ferrari

Q. Is the house on the cover their parents house?

A. Yes

Q. Have they ever appeared on the American Bandstand?

A. Several times 1969 - 1970

Q. How long does it take them to produce an album?

A. About three months

Q. Will they be doing any talk shows in the near future?

A. No talks shows are scheduled at the present time. Sometimes they are arranged for in just a matter of a day or two and that is why I sometimes cannot let you know in advance.

Q. Is there any significance to the identical gold bracelets they wear?

A. No. They each bought their own because they liked them. However, they each own an elegant rope-like gold bracelet that was a gift from Herb Alpert about 4 years ago.

Q. What were the four platinum records for, mentioned in Newsletter # 39?

A. They each received one for THE SINGLES and also for NOW AND THEN from Holland.

Q. Did TOP OF THE WORLD make a gold record?

A. Yes

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\* The Carpenters,

\* Family, and

\* Fan Club Staff

\* Extend the Seasons

\* Greetings to you all

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